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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 8. SATURDAY, MAY 9TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, May 10th 3 p.m.—Victoria Park. Miss Feek.
3 p.m.—Beckton Road Park.
8 p.m.—400 Old Ford Road—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and others.
Monday, May 11th, 3 p.m.—Bow & Bromley Members' meeting—400 Old Ford Road.
8.30 p.m—Swiss Cottage Hackney—Miss Rickards.
8 p.m.—Priscilla Road.
8 p.m.—Freemason's Road—Mrs. Laski.
Tuesday, May 12th, 8 p.m.—Dock Gates—Miss Richmond.
8 p.m.—400 Old Ford Road—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m.—Burdett Road—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—Silvertown Station, S.W. Ham—Mrs. Walker.
Wednesday, May 13th, 8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall—Mrs. Haverfield.
8 p.m.—319 East India Rd—Miss Bonwick.
8 p.m.—Chrisp Street—Mr. E. W. Roberts.
Thursday, May 14th, 3 p.m.—Crowder's Hall Mrs. Saul Solomon.
3 p.m.—319 East India Dock Road—Miss Harley.
3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Road—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd., Canning Town—Miss Thompson.
8 p.m.—Knapp Road—Mrs. Walker.
Friday, May 15th, 8 p.m.—Ford Rd.—Mrs. Laski.
8 p.m.—Piggott Street—Mr. Jouning.
8 p.m.—Beckton Road—Miss Rickards.
8 p.m.—400 Old Ford Road—Bow and Bromley Members' Meeting.

WOMEN'S MAY DAY in EAST LONDON.

SUNDAY, MAY 24th.

GREAT PROCESSION *from Beckton Road, Canning Town 3.15, East India Dock Gates 3.45, 400 Old Ford Road at 4.30 to*

VICTORIA PARK,

Many Societies are joining the E. L. F. S., among others: The Forward Cymric League; The United Suffragists; The Actresses' Franchise League; The Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage; and others

Be sure to keep that Sunday free!

THANKS FOR BIRTHDAY GREETINGS.

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all very much for the cards, flowers, presents and good wishes that you have sent me. I hope that you will allow me to thank you all collectively, through the columns of the Dreadnought, instead of writing to each one of you personally, because you are so many.

Yours in our cause,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE EDWARD III. ACT AGAIN.

The musty old process of Edward III has again been revived by the Liberal Government, to set at naught the right of free speech, and to coerce the Suffragettes. On Friday, May 1st, "General" Flora Drummond was served with a summons to attend at Bow Street to answer to a charge of delivering inciting speeches. She tore the paper up in contempt, without even looking at the date for which it was made out. A similar summons has also been served on Mrs. Dacre Fox.

CONDEMNED TO BE BORN IN PRISON.

Mabel Wynn George who is accused of obtaining £11 by false pretences, begged the Magistrate of Rotherham in Yorkshire to allow her bail, instead of remanding her in custody till her trial, in order that her baby might be born in the workhouse instead of in prison. In England the theory is supposed to be that a prisoner is presumed to be innocent until he or she is tried and found guilty. This most natural and, for the child's future, most necessary request was refused. As a matter of fact the treatment of untried prisoners on remand in our country differs but little from that of convicted prisoners, and this is a peculiar instance of the fact.

Obviously the Magistrate held the future of the baby as of no account in comparison with £11.

EAST LONDON SUFFRAGETTES' TRIUMPH.

THE FIRST OF MAY.

The Police Out-generalled.

On the first of May, the members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes decided that they, as working women, would join in the festival that is held on the first of May by workers all over the world, and would do their part in proclaiming that, as women toil with men in the work of the world, they must share in the dignities as well as in the drudgeries of labour, and that as part of their heritage as human workers, they must share the common rights of citizenship.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes announced that they would march in Procession from Mile End Waste, and would have a platform of their own in Hyde Park near the Reformers' Tree.

The police refused permission, but a small organisation of men at once sprang into being, in order to secure a permit for a platform which it did not intend to use. Permits are, of course, always granted without question to organisations of men!

Whilst the East London Suffragettes were marching the long miles from Mile End to the Park, the convenient newly-formed little men's organisation was taking its platform into the Park. Detectives and policemen were all very curious about this platform. It had been announced in the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT that the platform of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes would be known by its tall flagstaff, and there was the newly formed men's organisation, which had been provided with a permit in due order, coming into the Park with a tall flagstaff. Could it be intended to fly the E.L.F.S. colours from that flagstaff? It was a suspicious circumstance that the address on the cart showed that it had come from Bow. The police decided to confiscate the flagstaff and did so, saying that a special permit ought to have been procured for it. That very flagstaff has done duty in Hyde Park before without a permit, but the newly-formed men's organisation did not know this, and as they were greatly outnumbered by the police they felt that protest was useless and allowed the flagstaff to be taken to the Park Police Station. The platform remained. Large numbers of policemen and detectives waited around it and tried by conversing with the men in charge to discover the truth about the newly-formed men's organisation.

When the various processionists entered the Park, Miss Paterson, Mrs. Walker and the other E.L.F.S. speakers clambered up on to the platform and flew our purple, white, green and red—not from the great flagstaff, it is true, but from the shafts and on the poles on which our banners had been carried.

Of all the many platforms in the Park, the largest crowd congregated round the East London Federation of Suffragettes.

The police made no attempt to attack. They realised that we had too many friends around us?

WHAT MISS BUCHAN SAW.

People thronged the pavement to see the procession as it passed along and as soon as they saw our banner they cheered and made remarks about the Suffragettes, and they were most eager to see us as we passed. So, it shows that, though some people say we ought to be burnt or put away somewhere, they still take an interest in the movements of the Suffragettes, wherever we may be the people all clamour round to see what is happening!

When we arrived at the Park and branched off from the Labour people to take our pitch, we found, to our surprise, that we had the largest crowd following us to the platform. Miss Smyth, Miss Paterson, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Roberts made good speeches, and the crowd which was a vast one, was very much interested. Then all of a sudden a man shouted out what do you want to burn down big buildings and endanger people's lives for? The speaker gave him his answer and the people in the crowd soon quieted him down.

Everything went off splendidly, the papers sold well, we had the biggest audience in the Park and it was very orderly. But there was one person all the people were eager to see and hear and that was Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Everyone was asking for her and wanting to know if she was quite safe, and when I said "yes, she is!" they were very pleased. Of course there were plenty of C.I.D. men anxiously waiting and listening to all that was said, but they were only wasting their time.

Collecting Self Denial Funds.

OUR HOUSE WARMING.

Opening of the East London Suffragettes New Hall.

Mrs. Haverfield's account.

A very pleasant evening was spent by members and friends of the E.L.F.S. on May 5th, to celebrate Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's birthday by the opening of a large hall attached to her future residence. The pleasantest part of the whole affair to this writer was the love and esteem in which Sylvia is held by her friends in the East End, who presented her with a handsome fitted dress case, a beautiful hair brush made by Mrs. Savoy, the member who gave it, and innumerable flowers.

The heart-felt cheers and good wishes that were showered upon her on all sides proved to her that her brave efforts to win Votes for Women, and thus enable them to improve their own conditions, are understood and appreciated at their true value. A charming programme of songs, music and recitations was then given and thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Pankhurst in returning thanks said her greatest joy was to be back amongst her East End friends and to feel that she was needed to carry on the great work that she had undertaken. As we all listened to her gentle quiet voice full of such deep feeling and love for humanity, one could but smile at the folly of anti-Suffragists and the tortuous turnings and wriglings of party politicians, who think in their blindness that they can put off the dawn of freedom for women.

The hall has been painted by men supporters, who had given up the previous Saturday afternoon to the work. The forms had been stained by the members of the Federation. Excellent refreshments, all made by members, were served. There was much merry conversation, and informally at a late hour this pleasant evening drew to a close.

E. HAVERFIELD.

GOVERNMENT HOSTILE TO PROTECTION FOR YOUNG GIRLS.

On Wednesday, April 29th, a Bill for the Protection of Young Girls was moved by the Bishop of London, and passed its second reading in the House of Lords. The main provisions of this Bill are:—

(1) To raise from 13 to 16 the age at which the consent of a young person of either sex is a defence to a charge of indecent assault;
(2) To raise from 16 to 18 the age at which a girl may consent to unlawful carnal intercourse;
(3) To extend to 12 months the time within which proceedings can be taken against persons who have unlawful carnal intercourse with girls between 13 and 18.

In our view this Bill is weak. The Bishop of London himself said in the debate: "If a bookmaker or money-lender, carrying on his business in a perfectly honest manner, sends a circular to a young man under 21, inviting him to bet or borrow money, he is held by the law to have committed a misdemeanour, but if a seducer, employing all his wiles, procures the downfall of a child of 16 he incurs no penalty."

We hold that it is infinitely more necessary to protect young girls till they are 21 against criminal outrages of the kind contemplated by this Bill than to safeguard their worldly goods. We consider that the Bishop ought to have provided in his Bill for the raising of the age of consent, in regard both to Clause (1), where he has made it 16, and Clause (2), where he has made it 18. Also, that he should have swept away altogether the time limit for prosecutions. The extended limit of 12 months, which he fixes, is sure to work hardly in many cases. Magistrates, judges, and juries of men, can certainly be trusted not to be too hard upon the men concerned in these cases, for the leniency of the punishments imposed for terrible assaults upon little girls, as compared with the crushingly heavy sentences given for petty thefts, are a scandal to our country.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Haldane, and Lord Crewe, showed thinly veiled dislike to the Bishop's Bill as a whole, and declared themselves hostile to raising the age of consent to 18. The Bill is all too drastic for them! They succeeded on behalf of the Government in delaying its further progress until July.

MISS ZELIE EMERSON.

On Wednesday, 6th May, Miss Zelie Emerson sailed for America, but we hope to see her back in East London before long.

For some time past her doctor has urged her to go home for several months rest, as, since her skull was fractured by the police last autumn, she has suffered from acute headaches and sickness. Latterly, her health instead of improving, has grown worse, so that her friends have become seriously alarmed on her account. We trust however, that she will soon be well enough to return to work, and fight side by side with us again.

Several members of the E.L.F.S., and two American friends, who waved the Stars and Stripes, were at Waterloo to show our appreciation of the splendid fight that Miss Emerson has made for the international freedom of women.

WOMAN AND THE HOLT REPORT.

We hear much of the little that the Holt Committee has done for the men Post Office employees, but nothing at all has been done for the women. Mr. Holt defended this in the House of Commons debate on Thursday, April 30th, by saying that the low wages of the women telephonists could not be raised because they were higher than they had been when the Government took over the telephone business from the private National Telephone Company; and that the wages of women telegraphists could not be raised, because they were higher than those of the women telephonists.

This sort of reasoning has satisfied the sheep-like Liberals and Lib-Labs in the House of Commons, but it does not satisfy the women—we want the vote!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

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Address.....

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No. 8.—Saturday, May 9th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

VOTES FOR WOMEN AND THE LORDS.

On May 5th and 6th, a Bill to give Parliamentary Votes to the women who at present exercise the Municipal Vote, was discussed in the House of Lords and defeated by the representatives of wealth and privilege by 104 votes to 60.

Here is the answer to those loudly professing democrats Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues in the Government who, whilst refraining from bringing in a Bill to give a vote to every man, because they fear they may also be forced to give a vote to every woman, still hypocritically protest that every Suffrage Bill a Private Member may happen to introduce is far from being democratic enough for them.

For our part, we consider that Lord Selborne's Bill to give votes to a million women was far too small for women to accept as a settlement of their claims.

We do not rest under the delusion that the women municipal voters are in the main persons of wealth and position. We have often canvassed them in our time and we know that the vast majority of them are wretchedly poor. But there are only a million women municipal voters though. There are thirteen million adult women in the country and we do object to the other twelve million women being crowded out. Moreover there are seven million men on the register and we hold that women have a right to a representation equal to that of men.

In the course of the debate, Lord Crewe said that he intended to vote against the Bill, because he thought that it would benefit the Conservative Party. Lord Crewe, like the rest of his Liberal colleagues is a humbug, for the Government's late Reform Bill dealt with the Municipal franchise as well as the Parliamentary, and whilst it proposed to extend the Municipal franchise for men and to make it broader and more democratic, it left the Municipal franchise for women just as it is at the present time, and just on the same terms that Lord Selborne's Bill proposed to give to women the Parliamentary Vote!

The moral is that women can place faith in neither the Liberals nor the Tories, neither the House of Commons nor the Lords!

We shall only win the vote by our own effort and sacrifice, and working women above all must remember that if they do not fight and clamour unceasingly for political freedom, they certainly will not get it!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

HUNGARIAN STATE CARE OF DESTITUTE CHILDREN

Hungary prides itself on its care of children, and the Hungarian State is ever ready to assume responsibility for the welfare of any child who is orphaned or deserted, or whose parents or guardians are either unable or unwilling to take charge of its upbringing.

There are 18 reception *bureaux* to which the children may be brought by parents or relatives, by persons who have found them, or by any who wish to dispose of them—even if its parents are foreigners—no child is refused admission. Children are sent thither also by Magistrates, Burgomasters and District Councils.

In the year 1910, 54,478 children were being cared for by the State, and 8,550,855 kr. (about £342,034 5s.) was spent upon them.

During the year 1910, 16,372 children were brought into the reception *bureaux*: 8,441 of these were foundlings, or were brought by parents and guardians; 5,440 were sent by Magistrates and 2,352 by District Councils.

When a child is brought into the reception *bureaux* no searching questions are asked: no documentary evidence is demanded, for it is considered that the child has a right to be taken in good charge, and that an unwanted child is an unhappy one. Therefore, the child is at once medically examined, and, if it is ill, it is immediately treated and kept at the reception bureau until it is cured.

If the child is well it is taken to a State hotel for children, until a permanent home can be found for it.

We visited the central reception bureau for children in Buda Pesth, and were most kindly received by the Director, Mr. Szana, and by the lady who is his principle medical assistant. A delicate little baby, some three months old, strapped up on a cushion as the peasants carry their children, had just been brought in by an old woman, who said that she did not know to whom it belonged. A doctor and one of the nurses first examined the baby, and then, when the nurse had dressed it and carried it away, a policeman and another nurse took down all the particulars from the old woman who had brought it in.

Just as the children may be placed under Hungarian State care without difficulty, so, in the same way, their parents may reclaim them at any moment. The parents always know where their children are; they can visit them when they please, and, if they make any enquiries about them, they are always advised to go to see them for themselves. If the children are ill the parents are always told. A child without parents, however, is only given over to relatives provisionally, and under the direction of the inspector. The State care of the children, whom it has charge of, lasts at present till 15 years of age, but legislation is being introduced to enable it to watch over the children till they reach their majority, which, in Hungary, is at the age of 24.

As soon as the children, who have been brought into the reception bureau, are well enough, they are boarded out with foster parents, living in 374 selected villages,—the number of districts being limited to minimise the difficulties of inspection. The districts from which foster parents may be selected, have been chosen for their healthy situation and good sanitary and other conditions.

A much larger number of persons offer themselves as foster parents than there are children to be disposed of. Before a child is handed over to any applicant the house is first examined by an inspector. If the house proves to be satisfactory, the would-be foster mother and her family are examined by a doctor, and if this examination also results well, the family must further provide themselves with a certificate of good character from the community in which they live.

When a child has been placed in a family, the local children's inspector, who is always a woman—England might take example for this—makes frequent calls upon it, and a superior woman inspector calls twice a year. Mr. Szana told us that it is the duty of the local inspectors to assure themselves, not merely that the child is properly fed and clothed, but also that it is happy, and that it loves and is beloved by its foster parents. He added that it is the duty of the superior inspector (also a woman) to see that the child's character, habits, and material conditions are intimately known to the local inspector.

In each district where children are boarded out by the State there is a children's doctor, who consults with the local woman inspector and the foster parents in regard to the children's upbringing, especially in such matters as the feeding of infants and hygienic questions generally.

When possible, children under a year old are boarded out with their mothers. In the year 1910 this was done in 57·4 per cent. cases; 57·9 per cent. of the foster parents are small land-owners, 19·8 are factory workers, 2·6 merchants, 10·9 labourers, and 6·8 are employed in other ways.

Fathers of illegitimate children, who can afford to do so, and people who bring children to the reception *bureaux*, though they have means enough to maintain them, are supposed to pay towards their upbringing, but the children in State care, whose relatives paid anything at all in respect of thom during the year 1910, numbered only 139.

The foster parents are paid 14 kroner (11s. 8d.) a month for the care and maintenance of a child under twelve months old, and are also given baby foods and medicines, and any extras that the doctor and inspector may think necessary.

Where mother and child go into a family together, the foster parents receive 18 kroner (15s.), very little more than for the child alone, because it is assumed that the mother will attend to the child and help with the housework. 10 kroner (8s. 4d.) a month is paid for a child of from one to two years, 8 kroner (6s. 8) for a child of from two to seven; 10 kroner for a child of from seven to fifteen.

In the case of delicate children more money or special nourishment is given by the doctor's order.

Two sets of clothes for the children—one in the summer, one in the winter—are also provided by the State, a big parcel being sent to each local inspector, who allots them as she thinks fit.

Hungarian children may leave school at twelve years of age, if they have passed the sixth class, and after they are twelve the State does not pay foster parents for their keep, unless the children are physically or mentally delicate, or are not far enough advanced to leave school, or are having special teaching.

Children who are specially talented are sometimes sent to secondary schools, and allowed to go on studying there after they are 15. In that case the foster parents are paid 15 kroner (12s. 6d.) a month. But these are exceptional cases; only 1·3 of the children go beyond the elementary schools. Happily the number of children in reformatories is smaller still, being only 407, or 0·7 per cent.

We were told that when they leave school, the children are always asked what they would like to do to earn a living, and that as far as possible, they are helped to follow their chosen callings. A large proportion of the girls remain in the households of their foster parents. Some go into domestic service. Some boys remain on the farms of their foster parents, but a larger proportion are apprenticed to various trades, as are some also of the girls.

When a boy is serving his apprenticeship he lives with his employer, and his work is supposed to pay for his board and lodging. The money from the State ceases to be paid, but the inspector still watches over him as before. Girl apprentices still live with their foster parents. The boys and girls in the care of the State may not be apprenticed until the doctor certifies them as physically fit.

A number of privately organised institutions for the training of domestic economy receive some of the girls, who are under State care, when they leave school. There are also two State silk factories where girls are trained, and where they live from 14 to 18 years, after which they may go or stay as they please. Part of the money earned by the girls under 18 in these factories is deducted for their keep. The remainder is put in the bank for them until they are 18.

Many poor mothers are granted 10 kroner (8s. 4d.) a month by the Hungarian State, from the birth of their babies until they are a year old. These mothers and their children are visited by the inspectors of boarded-out children.

After we had been to the Central Children's Admission Bureau and Hospital, we felt that we should like to see some of the homes where the children were boarded out. We called, unannounced, at the administrative office in Buda, where the officials there very kindly arranged for us to go off at once, to pay some surprise visits.

With one of the lady Inspectors of children we took the electric tram to Kiss Pesth, a small factory town on the outskirts of Buda Pesth. Factories may not be built within a certain radius of the city. Partly for this reason and partly also because the rents in the centre of Buda Pesth are exorbitantly high, the working people tend more and more to live in the suburbs.

We were joined by the local inspector for the district, and with our two guides called first at a house which seemed to have about six rather large rooms and had a fair sized garden. It was comfortably furnished in an old fashioned way, with a piano in the sitting room and some pictures and obviously home made embroideries on the walls. We were greeted by a kind looking woman, her two daughters and the boarded out child. The three girls smiled at us and kissed our hands in Hungarian fashion. The boarded out child, who was fifteen years of age, was a little younger than the others. She was quite as well dressed as they and seemed equally at home. She was attending a secondary school so that the State was now paying the foster mother 15 kroner (12 6) a month in respect of her. We asked whether this money was enough to pay for the girl's keep. The foster mother laughed, as though she thought the question very amusing, and said "no!" We asked her why she had taken this girl to live with her when she had two daughters of her own. She said she had done so, because she loved the girl's mother and wanted to help her when she was left a widow. She had at first taken this girl's sister also, but the elder girl had now left school and obtained employment in the Post Office in another town where the mother was also employed. Both mother and daughter had obtained these posts through the influence of the foster mother's husband who was a Post Office official.

We went next to the home of a woman who had six little children, and who was receiving 10 kroner a month from the State for the youngest, a baby of three or four months old. Her husband was a factory worker and earned about £45 a year. They paid 280 kroner (£11 13s. 4d.) a year for a poor little house of two rooms, one opening out of the other.

A few doors away another woman was also receiving the state grant of

10 kroner, she too was the mother of six children. They paid the same rent as the other family and the husband earned 2.80 or 3 kroner (2/4 or 2/6) a day as a carpenter's labourer. This home was not nearly so well kept as the other, but the woman, who was in the midst of washing the clothes, explained to us that her neighbour's children were older and could give her more help in the house.

In this district the houses were very small and poorly built, but our guides took us next to a colony of some 25,000 or 30,000 houses built by the State. The Hungarian Government has recently taken to building houses for the people because the privately owned houses are too dear and too few. The next houses we saw in the colony were well built and well planned with good modern lavatory accommodation, though I am sorry to say I did not see any baths! Some of the houses were detached and stood in their own little gardens. Others were in big blocks of flats, with a fairly large garden space for each block. Many new houses were being built and we saw men and women working upon them, carrying the bricks and mortar, and laying them in place. We were told that the women were paid from 2 kroner to 2 kroner 50 filler (1/8 to 2/1) a day and the men 3 kroner to 4 kroner (2/6 to 3/4). Here workmen's houses with two rooms were let at 260 kroner (about £10 16s. 8d.) a year; and with three rooms at 320 kroner (about £13 6s. 8d.) Large three roomed houses, used by officials and shop keepers, were rented at 600 kroner (about £25). Our guides knew of no houses in the colony with more than three rooms—a striking indication of the low state of house accommodation in Hungary!

Workers two roomed houses, our guides told us, though smaller and not so well built as those in the colony, were let in the centre of Buda Pesth at 500 to 600 kroner (£20 16s. 8d. to £25) a year. When exploring the city on our own account, we went into a little enclosed court, connected by a passage with one of the smaller streets. Here we spoke to a woman who lived in two very small rooms, one of which opened straight from the court and the other out of the first. She told us that she paid 520 kroner (£21 13s. 4d.) a year in rent.

The next family to whom the inspectors took us, lived in one of the new blocks of flats in the colony. The husband and wife, who belonged to the better paid artizan class had taken two twin boys from the State because they had no children of their own. These boys were 13 years old, strong, sunburnt and thick set, with round close cropped heads, and plain, good humoured, mischievous faces. They had rough and well worn, but warm and very clean clothing. We found them in the scullery, bare legged and without collars, sitting side by side on little wooden stools, with books in their hands. They jumped up at once on seeing us, and eagerly, almost fiercely, snatched at our hands and insisted on kissing them, although we tried to draw them away. The inspectors cleverly managed to elude them, and smilingly stroked their heads and faces. One of the boys brought the foster mother, who told us that because they would not learn their lessons, she had taken their shoes and stockings away, to make them stay in till they had finished their work. She said that they were only in the fourth class, although at the age of 12 they should have been in the sixth.

We asked the boys what they wanted to be when they left school, and one of them said that they would both like to be locksmiths. The Inspectors told us that the boys were to be what they wished, and that as soon as they left school they would be apprenticed to a locksmith for four years.

We asked if these boys had any people belonging to them, and we were told that their mother was a widow, toiling to earn her living as a seamstress in Buda Pesth. She had been obliged to part with seven of her children. Her eldest boy, aged 16, had gone to be apprenticed, another child had been taken in by a relation, and the three youngest had been sent to an orphan asylum. She had only been able to keep with her one girl of 14, who worked with her: the mother and daughter together earning only about 3 kroner (2s. 6d.) a day. We were told the mother came to see the boys sometimes. Their faces looked gloomy and wistful when we spoke of her: it seemed hard that she and the girl should be working away in Buda Pesth, with all the other children boarded out in different districts.

In the next home we visited, we again felt the hardship of this system. Here, a woman with two sons had taken in a little baby girl, the only child of a young mother. The boys, aged about 12 and 14, seemed devoted to the baby, and one of them cried when the inspector said we had come to take her away. The foster mother, too, seemed fond of the baby, and proud of its bright, healthy looks. She told us that the mother, who had been employed as a clerk, was well educated and very intelligent, but was now ailing and fretting. She had lost her post and had been obliged to take to very poorly paid housework.

Would it not be better, we asked, for the State to pay money to the mothers to enable them to keep their children with them, rather than to have them boarded out with strangers? The reply was that the Hungarian State cannot afford to pay enough for the proper maintenance of the children; that the sum paid to the foster parents is enough to help people who are already in fairly comfortable circumstances to do well by the child, but is not by any means enough to make it possible for a wretchedly paid widow or unmarried mother to keep a home for her child upon. In Hungary, as everywhere else, unfortunate mothers must suffer the heaviest of punishments for being poor!

As we left the house where the twin boys lived, they escaped from their lessons and went pattering down the steps in their bare feet and out into the sunny yard, where they began gravely shepherding a baby who was playing there.

In another home we found the woman ill in bed. The boarded out child, an orphan and the only child his foster parents had showed us around. He was a merry faced little boy of eight, with big black eyes. He clung to the local inspector's hand and kept rubbing his face against it, and talked to her in a familiar teasing way. He said that he was "the man of the house," and when she said she had come to take him away, he replied that he would not go, laughing and showing that he knew she did not mean it. Then he ran to a cupboard in the kitchen and brought a big piece of cake, saying that he had left that piece because he could not eat it.

All the children we saw seemed happily placed and well cared for, though it is true that we were placed at a disadvantage in judging, because all that we said to the children and all that they said to us had to be translated by the inspectors.

But the more bonny and happy the children, the more one was forced to remember the loneliness of their mothers.

We paid a visit to a small municipal kindergarten school for little children. We were told that children under six can go to school when they please, and that their mothers may help them at home whenever they think it wise to do so.

The working hours at this school are from 8 to 11 a.m., and from 2 to 4 p.m. If they wish, the children may have breakfast of bread and milk, dinner of soup, meat and vegetables, and tea of bread and milk. Any child who wants food may have it, a very small sum being charged to those parents who can afford to pay.

We were told that parents who can pay for the food, but who refuse to do so are fined, but that such cases are rare, and that no special officers are needed to deal with this matter, all negociations being made by the teachers. We also learnt that the teachers do the work of school attendance officers, and that in rare cases fines of about 2 kroner (1s. 8d.) are imposed for failure to send children to school. Free clothes are provided for school children who need them.

In many districts there are not enough schools to accommodate the children so that the compulsory attendance law cannot be enforced there.

If is difficult to quickly arrive at a sure judgment in such matters, but it seemed to us that the Hungarian method of dealing with the needs of little children, is very much more generous hearted and open handed than that which obtains here. The Hungarian principle seems to be that the child comes first, and we never once heard the phrase: "parental responsibility," which is so often used as an excuse for callous inaction here.

When Hungary realises that the welfare of the child is inextricably bound up with the welfare of its mother, she will perhaps follow the example of Australia, where women have the vote, and decide to make an allowance, sufficient to maintain it, to the child of a widowed mother. Perhaps with the help of her women, Hungary may find a still better way of caring for her children than any that has yet been found.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Miss Arabella Scott (Miss Catherine Reid), who was released under the Cat and Mouse Act from Galton Gaol eight months ago, was re-arrested at Brighton on May 2nd.

Miss Lillian Lenton was re-arrested at Birkenhead, on May 4th.

Two women were arrested without a warrant, on suspicion of causing the £35,000 damage at Felixstowe. They were examined in a special private court, from which the public were excluded, and committed for trial. They are now being tortured by forcible feeding in Ipswich Gaol, although, as yet, unconvicted prisoners.

Miss Small, sentenced to two months' imprisonment for window breaking, in Belfast, April 11, was re-arrested on Thursday, April 30, but on Monday was released unconditionally by order of Dublin Castle. Evidently the Cat and Mouse Act is not to be used in Ireland.

Miss Mary Grace and Miss Owen were arrested for obstruction on May 1st, and tried at Tower Bridge Police Station. They protested so hard that the trial was adjourned till next week.

Miss Mary Stewart, who was committed for trial at Bow Street, on April 11th, for damaging a show case and some china at the British Museum, was remanded, without bail, but was released after hunger striking. She did not appear to be tried at the London Sessions, on May 1st, and Mr. Robert Wallace, K.C., said: "I cannot issue a bench warrant because she was not out on bail or recognizances. I can do nothing. I am not anxious to see her myself." We are glad to have this sign from Mr. Wallace that magistrates and judges are growing tired of the warfare between the Government and the women. It is a good omen for the speedy granting of the vote. But Mr. Wallace has shown us that the police have been acting illegally in arresting, as they have done on several occasions, untried prisoners in precisely the same position as Miss Stewart.

A SARGENT PORTRAIT SMASHED.

The Academy opened last Monday, and when the gallery was full, at 1.30, a woman attacked with a butcher's cleaver a portrait of the American novelist, Henry James, painted by John Sargent. This picture, because it was painted by Sargent, had secured great attention in the morning's press, but the criticisms were not very favourable. The *Times* said "it is the likeness of Mr. James as anyone might see him casually in the train." The *Morning Post* said that in this portrait Mr. Sargent was *not* "masterly" and that it was "a confession of failure to understand the mental attitude of his fellow countryman." The Editor of the *Dreadnought* has been prevented by the Cat and Mouse Act from seeing the picture.

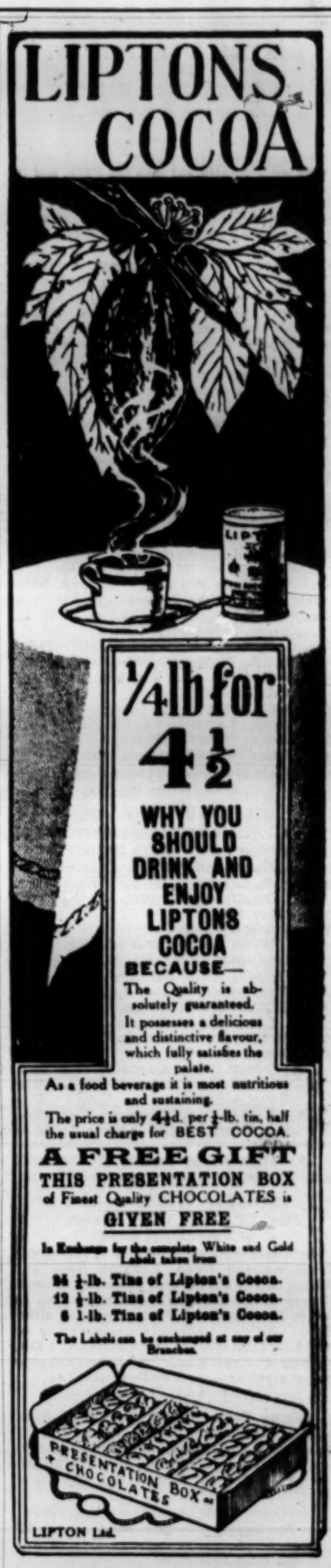
The woman was roughly handled by the fashionable crowd, and a man who said "it was an act of courage" was violently hustled his hat being knocked off and his glasses broken.

Mrs. Wood, the woman who hacked the picture, has been committed for trial. She said the damage must be put down to the Liberal Government.

OTHER MILITANCY.

On May 4th, the bowling and tennis pavilion of the Cave Hill Club, Belfast, was destroyed by fire. Suffragette literature was found.

A bomb was placed under a reservoir at Dewsbury, on May 3rd, 138,000,000 gallons of water were imperilled, but the fuse went out. £100 reward has been offered by the Waterworks Board for the discovery of the person who did it. The Board hopes thus to prevent further damage. They would do better to spend it in getting women the vote.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CORRESPONDENCE.

May 3rd, 1914.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

I am very glad to hear that a new hall is to be opened, also that Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's birthday is to be celebrated in such a splendid fashion.

I want to write about an idea of mine. You know that there is a class of women and girls that is rather neglected in the East End of London—I mean the clerks and typists.

I came to this end of London a short time ago, and I was surprised to find what a lonely life it was possible for a girl to live in London. One of our London business houses has a club-house, which is entirely self-supporting, where the women employees can meet their fellow workers socially. They have a reading room, music room, tennis court, etc. Could we not have something the same here in Poplar or Bow? It would be a splendid thing for the business girl to have a club to go to any evening, and every evening, where some useful work could be done to forward the "Woman's Movement," or where music or politics could be enjoyed and discussed by the girl who would know how to appreciate it.

I hope that this letter may call forth some practical suggestions from readers of our paper. I shall look for an answer in the columns of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT. In conclusion I wish our Cause and our paper the very great success it deserves.

I remain, yours truly,

JOAN CONWAY.

[Miss Conway does not send us her address.—*Editor* WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.]

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser:—Mrs. Ives.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

The May Day procession to Hyde Park gave us another victory, as with banners flying we went straight into the Park, and in spite of all refusals held our meeting and sold our paper. Now the holidays are gone, will members please give their attention as much as possible to the *Dreadnoughts*? We do want to get them all distributed each week! Also we must increase the sales. We want more workers to take pitches for selling, and to help with the stall in Roman Road on Fridays and Saturdays. Funds are badly needed to help on the cause, as each week brings its own expenses and every member giving even a short time each week is doing her little bit for the cause. Self Denial cards are all to be in by Monday, May 11th.

Dreadnoughts sold for week ending May 1st—687.

Members' Distribution Districts:

Mrs. W. Lansbury, St. Stephen's Road District—500 copies.
Mrs. Burton, Ford Road District—500.
Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. Moore, Turner's Road District—500.
Miss Boyce, Kenilworth Rd. District—500.
Mrs. Kelly, Usher Rd. District—400.
Mrs. McCheyne and Mrs. Knudson, Fairfield Rd. District—350.
Mrs. Weaver, Smeed Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Clarke, Parnell Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Carlisle, Tredegar Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Mantle, Wellington Rd. District—200
Miss Dobson and Miss Vernham, Cardigan Rd. District—200.
Mrs. Hope, Medway Rd. District—150.
Mrs. Wilson, Lichfield Rd. District—150.
Mrs. Pascoe, High St. District—100.
Mrs. Husted, White Post Lane District—200

Members who have sold over 50 copies—Mrs. Moore, 165.

POPLAR.

Office .. ..319 East India Dock Road.
Organiser: Miss Mary Paterson.

Members have all worked well with flower-making and other work for Self Denial week. 112 *Dreadnoughts* sold during week ending May 1st.

Distribution Districts:

1. Upper North Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk Street. *Helpers*—Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Neuss, Mrs. Skeet, Misses Lagsding, Mrs. Cresswell, Mrs. Organ.—1,300.
2. Chrisp Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Fyffe, 37 Morris Rd. *Helper:* Miss Edy—400.
3. Isle of Dogs. *Captain*—Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk Street. *Helper*—Mrs. Neuss.—500.
4. Kerbey Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Schlette, 128 Kerbey Street.—400.
5. High Street District. *Captain:* Mrs. Walker, 62 Grundy Street—200.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

*Hon. Sec...*Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Good meetings were held at Freemason's Road, Kelland Road, Beckton Road and Shirley Street corner on Tuesday afternoon. Thanks to the members who turned up so well in Beckton Road Park on Sunday afternoon. Will *all* members please bring or send Self Denial cards in by Monday, 11th, to 94 Ravenscroft Road. 83 *Dreadnoughts* sold at meetings, week ending May 2nd.

DISTRIBUTION DISTRICTS.

Canning Town. District leaders—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Road; Miss Tate, 37 Tyas Road. Distributors—Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Pountney, Mrs. Hockham, Mrs. Hornblower, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Parker.

Plaistow. District leaders—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Road; Miss Putt, 67 Wigston Road. Distributors—Mrs. Ward, Mrs. and Miss Lawrence.

Custom House. District leader—Miss Daisy Leggatt, 74 Chauntler Road. Distributor—Miss A. Dunbar.

Tidal Basin. District leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent-road. Distributors—Miss Greenleaf, Misses A. and L. Kelsey.

Silvertown. District leader—Miss Grace Grimes, 27 Newland Street. Distributor—Miss F. Nicholas.

SOUTH HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss Young,
Cromwell House, Greenwood Rd., Dalston.

Splendid meeting at Swiss Cottage on Monday. Distributors and sellers of papers wanted.

Papers sold, week ending 1st May—32.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement.

Hackney, Kingsland and Stoke Newington Branch.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Eric W. Roberts.
Hon. Acting Sec.: Mr. M. Myers,
36 Kerbella Street, Bethnal Green, E.

Excellent meetings throughout the week. Mr. Mewett's speech at Ridley Road on Sunday morning much appreciated. Two dozen copies of the *Woman's Dreadnought* sold, back numbers of same distributed.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

Sunday, May 10th—Ridley Road (High St., Kingsland), 12 noon.
Mr. Eric Roberts, Mr. James Bryce, Mr. H. Joyce. Chair: Mr. Gerald Rice-Oxley.

Other East London Societies, contd.

Amhurst Road (Stoke Newington), 12 noon.
Mr. Eric Roberts, Mr. J. Mendelowich
Chair: Mr. E. Standish-Smetherton.
Median Road (Clapton) 3 p.m. Mr. Eric Roberts, Mr. H. Bernard, Mr. J. Browne, Chair: Mr. S. Turpin.
Tuesday, May 12th—Harford St. (Stepney) 8 p.m. Mr. J. Leader.
Wednesday, May 13th—Boleyn Rd (Dalston) 8 p.m. Mr. Myers and others.
Thursday, May 14th—Cobden Statue (Camden Town) 8 p.m. Mr. Eric Roberts. Chair: Mrs. Lenlock.

R.S.P.U.

We are arranging an outing to Hastings on Sunday, July 19th. Full particulars from members, or from Mr. W. Whiteleaf, 76 Jodrell Road, Bow. Price, including tea, 4s. 9d.

A MOUSE ABROAD.—IN VIENNA.

When we arrived in Vienna we found that the newspaper reporters were all eager for news of the British Militant Suffrage Movement. I was interviewed by more than a dozen of them, and they gave for the most part, very favourable reports.

Our rooms were soon full of flowers sent to us by friends of our movement.

Next morning, as we set out from the hotel, we were filmed for the picture palaces. We went with an English Suffragette, a cousin of Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, who lives in Vienna, to lunch in the Prater, the beautiful park, which is to Vienna what Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens are to London, but which is really lovelier and more rural.

In the afternoon the Vienna Women's Suffrage Society had arranged a reception at their large offices. The room was crowded, and as well as the Viennese ladies, there were numbers of Americans and English, French, Germans, Russians and Poles. Most of the guests were women, but some men were also present, and an Austrian lieutenant presented us with a beautiful basket of blue gentians, red and white tiger lilies and yellow roses, with ribbons in the English and Austrian colours and the American stars and stripes in miniature. Autographs, photographs and copies of the Woman's Dreadnought were in great demand. Frau Ernestine Furth made a speech of greeting to us from the Austrian women, and thanked us for coming to Vienna.

The meeting that night was in the Grosses Konzerthaussaal, a fine, brilliantly lighted hall. Several thousand people were present. They were a splendid audience to speak to and after I had finished, they all stood up and applauded with tremendous enthusiasm, whilst someone presented me with flowers in our National colours. Many people came up to give us their good wishes for our struggle—I heard some English voices crying: "I was an anti and I am converted"—and I was kept busy talking and writing autographs, until the manager came to say the lights must be put out.

The next days were spent in sight seeing. The old Gothic Cathedral, its walls richly sculptured in intricate variety of detail, rises up in the midst of the wide and brilliant streets. Its sombre interior is glorified by its jewel-like windows, into which is introduced a wonderful flame colour that I have seen nowhere else. The darkness towards the High Altar was only lit by the tapers around the Archaic Madonna that is said to be known to shed tears. A crowd of worshippers are always kneeling round her—men, women and children, with faces wrapt in awe and love.

A box at the Opera was most kindly lent to us by Viennese cousins of Miss Joachim, and there we saw some of the brilliantly artistic staging for which Vienna is famous. Almost incredibly beautiful effects of light and darkness, sky and cloud, were developed, in ever changing variety and blending with the tremendous music of *Die Walkurie* will make many a memory to cheer the hours when I go back to Holloway. One afternoon we spent gathering violets in the beautiful beech woods on the hills which overlook Vienna.

Many interesting people called on us. A Polish woman from Lemberg in Galicia, who told us how, all over Poland, both girl and boy scouts are organising, in order to fight for Polish freedom. Also how many Polish women, peasant women as well as those of the richer classes, study and train themselves, and then give their lives to teaching the children of the people, whose education is nelgected by their alien governors.

A LEAGUE OF YOUTH.

There came to me also one evening three representatives of a League of Youth, whose object is to battle for the rights of young men and women.

These three who came to me were themselves gloriously young, with the hopeful idealism of youth shining in their eyes. Two of them were girls of 18, one a quaint little creature with very serious purpose, the other, lovely as a flower, with a sort of delicate bloom upon her that almost made one hold one's breath. There were two young men, one aged 24 and very boyish with less to say for himself than the rest, the other aged 32, invincibly young, although his hair was thinning prematurely and he gave his age with an apology for his loss of youth.

They told me that youth thinks that age does not know how youth should live, and that youth is not a passing phase, but the best part of life, to which the race must look for inspiration and the creation and development of its ideals. They said that youth must be free to lead its own life and find its own way, untrammelled by the materialism and fearfulness of age. They said that when the young are asked what they wish to be, they always choose for themselves such characters as Joan of Arc, Garibaldi, Shakespeare, Dante, or Beethoven. They never say merely: "I will be rich." They wish to be something noble, beautiful and great. Youth, my young instructors told me, should be removed from the sordid cares of money making, and the shameful fear of want that belong to a world made by the old, who, with their years, have lost their idealism.

Their faces glowed with the light of the golden age they were depicting. I asked: "May not older people also be freed from the fear of hunger; may not they too live beautiful joyous lives in the days to come?" They smiled at me with a kindly, youthful pity. "There are some," they said, "who remain always young."

They told me that already there have been established two Municipalities of youth at Wickersdorf and at Tieberg in South Germany. Here children of from 12 to 14 may live and make their own laws until they are 24, and if they are still young in heart, they may remain even longer still. No elders are allowed in these colonies except the guides, young in heart, whom the youths choose for themselves. The parents of the youths at present pay for these institutions, but the League of Youth intends that the State shall some day support in such institutions all those who are young. In that day they think that the guides whom youth has chosen should be represented in Parliament.

The essential principle of the youth's Municipalities is that the young people who inhabit them shall live free from all material care, and shall know nothing of gainful labour.

The League of Youth in May, 1913, started a magazine of its own, called "*Anfang*" (the beginning), which is all written by the young and in which nothing appears merely as literature, but everything is intended to elucidate some problem of youth. This magazine is edited by the founder of the movement and of the Wickersdorf Youths' Municipality, Dr. Wyncken, who is now 39 years of age, but who began this work when he was 29. The founders of the youth movement in Vienna and Berlin are Segfrid Bernfeld and George Barbizon, both of whom are 21.

An offshoot of the League of Youth is the Green Anchor, a society formed to help the young in their conflicts with the old. It sends the guides whom youth has chosen, to interview parents and guardians, and to plead with them for the liberty of the young who are oppressed. It also helps the young who are in trouble with money, friendship and advice. The young people told me that in Austria and Germany there are many cases of children who run away from home.

On Sundays and during longer holidays, members of the League of Youth go wandering, and there are special societies also for this purpose. Children so young as ten may be taken on the wandering expeditions to prepare them for their future life in the Municipalities of Youth.

"We do not want freedom," one of the girls told me, "merely to come and go, we want to learn and to develop, and to find out how to live." "Children love their parents," the other said, "but they cannot be always with them, they want to learn a new life for themselves."

The Austrian authorities object to the League of Youth and its aspirations. They say that they are dangerous to the State. They have prohibited the publication of a paper by Dr. Wyncken called "*The Mission of Youth in the fight of our time.*"

The meetings of the League of Youth in Vienna, which sometimes numbered 700 young people, are now prohibited, and its members meet together secretly in country districts.

The four young people who were with me, told me that each one of them had been interviewed by the police. They thought that they would go to prison soon.

IN DRESDEN.

POLICE PROHIBIT SUFFRAGETTE MEETINGS IN GERMANY.

Meanwhile we had heard that my meetings in Dresden and Berlin had been prohibited by the police, but a supporter of the English militants, Mrs. Lindesay Neustatter, an Australian lady married to a Bavarian, who is a doctor in Dresden, wrote to me asking that I would speak at a private meeting in Dresden. I replied that I would, if the meeting could be arranged on the next evening but one, and Mrs. Neustatter, encouraged by our friend Mr. Albert Loewey, decided that it could be done.

We arrived in Dresden about six o'clock in the evening, and at about seven our friends attempted to telephone to the Press that we had arrived, and that I was willing to interview newspaper representatives. Dresden residents said they feared that it was too late, and to our astonishment the telephone operators replied, before we told our business, that all the editor's staff had already left for the night! Further enquiries confirmed this information, and a call by Miss Emerson and others at the newspaper offices disclosed the fact that the morning's newspapers were already on the printing machines.

It was therefore impossible to secure an announcement of the meeting in the newspapers, but we sent cards of invitation to all of them.

It was thought that the meeting room would hold sixty or seventy people, but we managed to pack into it 123 enthusiasts, who were counted by the police as they came in. Next day the police authorities sent to complain that we had had a public and not a private meeting, because the Press had been present.

The sleepy Dresden newspapers published an advance notice of the meeting on the morning after it had taken place. The report of the speech was not published until two mornings after it had been made, but the notices were, on the whole, very sympathetic.

"DAS KLEINES BLATT," OF VIENNA.

It must be said that the fight against the constantly increasing cost of living is worthy of the thought and careful consideration of our women.

To stand bravely by the side of the man in the battle of life, to help make good laws for both the industrial woman and the household budget—this is an exercise which is not too small for the combined power of organised woman. The movement for doing this is especially appropriate just now, when increased taxation places a new and heavy burden on the heads of families.

As comrades with men in the troubles of the day, our women can fulfill their destiny.

Miss Pankhurst comes armed with matches and a hammer—our women hear the message and are unafraid.

The Viennese newspapers all gave long interviews with Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and accounts of her lecture, but as most of these were occupied with descriptions of her appearance, and reports of her speech, we do not reproduce them.

The *Arbeiter Zeitung*, the workers' paper, said, in the course of its sympathetic article: "Our Liberal papers look upon Miss Pankhurst as a distinguished foreigner, with whom an interview is a great honour." In its concluding remarks this paper said: "The Suffragettes will fight more than ever, willingly bearing the sufferings that are bound up with this fight, in order to win better conditions for the women of the future."

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